



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS SUMMARY:

United States Attorney Steven M. Biskupic announced today that a grand jury sitting in the Eastern District of Wisconsin has returned a six-count indictment against William Staples (DOB: 9/7/54), a/k/a Robin A. Booker (10/16/54), of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for defrauding the Social Security Administration (SSA), possession of firearms by a convicted felon and possession of a controlled substance.

The indictment alleges Staples devised a scheme to defraud the government of more than \$80,000.00 by assuming a false identity, namely Robin A. Booker, and applying for and obtaining supplemental security income (SSI) benefits in Booker's name. From approximately November 1994 through February 2005, "Booker" received monthly SSI benefits. These benefits were disbursed to various bank accounts established by Staples in the name of Robin A. Booker. Staples also applied for and obtained social security disability (SSDI) benefits under his true identity. From approximately February 1996 through February 2005, Staples received monthly SSDI benefits. These facts, if known to the SSA, would have affected SSA's determination of "Booker's" initial eligibility (as well as his continuing eligibility) to receive SSI or other government benefits.

The SSA periodically reviews SSI recipients to ensure that they are still disabled and financially eligible for benefits. The indictment alleges that on or about January 11, 2005, Staples, representing himself to be Booker, appeared for a continued eligibility review interview with a representative of the SSA regarding "Booker's" SSI benefits. As part of the interview process, Staples produced an expired Wisconsin driver's license bearing his photograph in the name of Robin A. Booker. Staples also signed and dated a Continuing Eligibility Form for SSI benefits in which he claimed his true identity was Robin A. Booker. "Booker's" signature appears below the following writing: "I understand that this report will be used to determine whether to continue or stop my disability benefits."

Staples is charged with three counts of wire fraud as he caused SSA-SSI funds to be deposited into a bank account he established in the name of Robin A. Booker. Each of these charges carries a maximum possible penalty of up to twenty years in federal prison and a fine of up to \$250,000 or both. Based upon his conduct during the January 11, 2005, continued eligibility review interview, Staples is also charged with one count of knowingly making a false and fraudulent statement and representation for use in determining his continued right to SSI benefits. This charge carries a maximum possible penalty of up to five years in federal prison and a fine of up to \$250,000 or both.

The indictment also alleges that on or about February 25, 2005, Staples, a convicted felon, knowingly possessed firearms, which prior to his possession of them, had been transported in interstate commerce. This charge carries a maximum possible penalty of up to ten years in federal prison and a fine of up to \$250,000 or both.

Finally, the indictment alleges that on or about February 25, 2005, Staples knowingly and

intentionally possessed a controlled substance. The offense involved 5 or more grams of a mixture and substance containing cocaine base, in the form of crack cocaine, a Schedule II controlled substance. This charge carries a mandatory minimum penalty of five years in federal prison and a maximum possible penalty of twenty years in federal prison.

The government is also seeking forfeiture of residential properties owned by Staples in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as well as five firearms and \$660.00 in U.S. currency that was recovered from one of Staples' properties.

This case was investigated by the Office of Investigations of the Social Security Administration with the assistance of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Drug Enforcement Administration. The case has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Kelly B. Watzka.

The public is cautioned that an indictment is merely the formal method of returning charges against an individual and does not constitute inference of his or her guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until such time, if ever, the government established his or her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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